



## **RECREATION, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

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<b>TO:</b>	Council	
<b>DATE:</b>	June 29, 2021	<b>DIVISION:</b> All
<b>FILE:</b>	N/A	<b>APPLICATION:</b> N/A
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	2021 Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Allocation	

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### **POLICY DIRECTION:**

The 2021 intake of Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant applications were evaluated in accordance with Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Policy C-102 and were found to be in compliance.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant is intended to subsidize transportation costs related to medical and/or therapeutic appointments for seniors and persons with disabilities who reside in Rocky View County. Service providers submit annual Specialized Transportation Grant applications to the County, with their applications assessed in accordance with Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Policy C-102.

Council establishes Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant funds on an annual basis in conjunction with the County's annual budget. Administration received one application from one service provider.

Policy C-102 does not provide specific guidance on the allocation of funds to individual applications. The option before Council is based on the grants provided and spent by the organization in previous years.

### **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:**

Administration recommends approval in accordance with Option #1.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Specialized Transportation Assistance Grant Policy enables resourcing for Specialized Transportation providers operating within the County by establishing objectives, eligibility criteria, and the application process for grant fund distribution. In 2021, the per capita rate was \$7.70 x 39,407 (population based on 2018 municipal census), for a total budget of \$303,434, which was rounded up to \$303,500.

In the County, Specialized Transportation is predominately provided by the Rocky View Regional Handibus Society, which was the only applicant for 2021 (Attachment 'A').

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### **Administration Resources**

Dimitri Dimopoulos, FCSS Coordinator, Recreation, Parks and Community Support


**Rocky View Regional Handibus Society: Requested Grant: \$303,434**

Year	Annual Number of Service Trips for Medical and Therapeutic Appointments (one-way)	Total Number of Service Trips (one-way)
2019	2,008	4,018
2020	1,119	2,180
2021 (projected)	2,000	3,900

The Society, operating as the “Rocky View Bus” program, is available to County residents facing transportation barriers in accessing community supports and services. The service strives to maintain the residents’ independence and limit potential isolation, allowing the individual(s) to remain in their own homes and communities. Based on current funding levels and working on a pre-booked, ride-sharing model, up-to 20 one-way trips can be booked per month.

With regard to operations during the COVID-19 pandemic, daily ridership has dropped due to the intermittent shutdown of many facilities within the region. County residents, however, continue to utilize the service to attend medical appointments and to access everyday needs (i.e. groceries, pharmacies, etc.).

Furthermore, the Society has indicated that their multi-stakeholder approach creates synergies that help reduce the overall cost of service provided to participating municipalities. As some programs have been closed by the pandemic, these synergies have been altered, and remaining stakeholders may lose some of the existing cost-sharing benefits, which may result in an increased cost to service.

Looking forward, the costs of re-building / reopening as demand re-establishes are unknown at this time. Municipalities will be kept informed via quarterly reports, and any significant surpluses from both municipal participation and federal emergency relief have been considered in the budget proposal.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

The budget allocation of \$303,500 for this grant program is included in the 2021 Operating Budget. The total requested amount from the 2021 application equals the available funding for the grant.

**OPTIONS:**

- |           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| Option #1 | Motion 1                                | THAT the 2021 Specialized Transportation Grant funds totaling \$303,500 be approved and awarded to the Rocky View Regional Handibus Society.                   |
|           | Motion 2                                | THAT Council authorize Administration to enter into a funding agreement with the Rocky View Regional Handibus Society for Specialized Transportation services. |
| Option #2 | THAT alternative direction be provided. |  |



ROCKY VIEW COUNTY

Respectfully submitted,

“Brock Beach”

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Acting Executive Director  
Community Development Services

DD/rp

Concurrence,

“Kent Robinson”

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Acting Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment ‘A’ – Rocky View Regional Handibus Society 2021 Grant Application  
Attachment ‘B’ – Policy C-102